

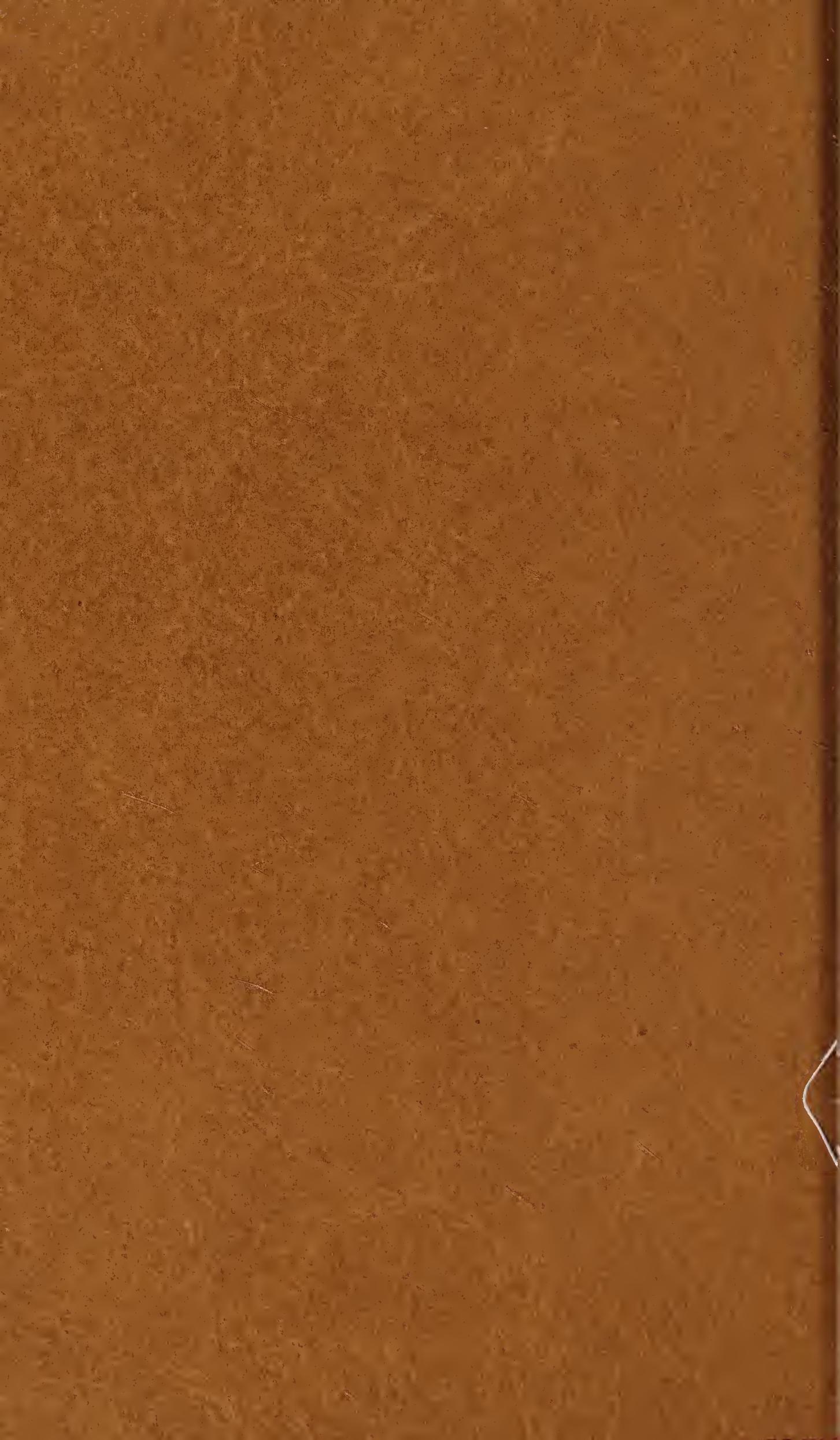


BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1953





TOWN HALL,
LYMINGTON.
JULY, 1954.

**TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON**

Mr. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my Annual Report for the year 1953.

Regarding vital statistics. Of the 347 residents who died, 228 were over 70 years of age; of these 228 deaths, 111 occurred in the age group 70 to 80 years, 100 between 80 and 90 years of age, and 17 were over 90 years of age.

The death rate of 15.3 per 1,000 estimated population of 22,560 when multiplied by the comparability factor becomes 10.7 per 1,000 as against 11.4 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 5, all these occurred during the first four weeks of life and give a low infant mortality figure as compared with a high one in 1952.

The death rate from Tuberculosis was higher than in 1952, being 0.27 per 1,000 estimated population, the rate for England and Wales was 0.20 per 1,000.

There was one death from Acute Poliomyelitis during the year. Of the 65 deaths due to malignant diseases, 9 were caused by cancer of the lung or bronchus, all the 9 deaths were of males, only two being under 60 years of age.

Deaths caused by accident numbered 10 the same figure as in 1952 and again a motor vehicle was involved in one of these.

The birth rate of 13.78 per 1,000 of the population becomes 14.74 when multiplied by the comparability figure as against 15.5 for England and Wales.

The total birth rate of live and still births was 15.8 as against 22.4 for England and Wales, there being 5 still births and 311 live births.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Lymington Borough is a district of 15,302 acres, which includes 1,572 acres of mudland. The area is very largely agricultural in character, and has three main shopping and residential districts, namely Lymington Town on the eastern side of the district, New Milton on the west, and Milford-on-Sea on the south. In addition to these are two other districts, namely, Hordle which is north of Milford-on-Sea, and Pennington, which adjoins Lymington Town. These are less populated than the three mentioned previously, but progressive development of these parts will no doubt take place now that building restrictions have eased.

The Borough is ideally situated, having the New Forest on its northern border, the sea on the south, and the large shopping centres of Bournemouth, and Southampton within easy reach.

The number of inhabited houses in the Borough is made up of 6,988 separate dwellinghouses, business premises with living accommodation 610, farm houses and farm cottages 171; 300 premises occupied as summer holiday residences are not included.

DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT

Area (in acres) ...	...	...	...	13,730
Population ...	...	...	...	22,560
No. of inhabited houses ...	...	...	...	7,769
Rateable Value ...	...	...	...	£191,472
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	...	...	...	£750

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Total	M	F	Birth Rate per 1,000 of	
311	168	143	the estimated resi-	
Legitimate	293	157	dent population ...	13.78
Illegitimate	18	11	Comparative figure	14.74
			England and Wales	15.5

Still Births

Legitimate	4	2	2	Rate per 1,000 (live & still births) ...	15.8
				Birth rate of England and Wales ...	22.4

Deaths

347	169	178	Death rate per 1,000 of	
			the estimated resi-	
			dent population ...	15.3

Comparative figure 10.7

Death rate of England and Wales 11.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	Deaths Nil
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	Nil

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	16.07
Infants under 4 weeks	...	...	...	16.07
England and Wales	...	...	...	26.8

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	12.86
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	55.55

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 2

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Gastro Enteritis (under 2 years of age) Nil

The chief causes of death were:—

Malignant Disease	65	Influenza	...	8
Coronary Disease		Tuberculosis (Resp.)	...	5
(Angina)	36	Vascular Lesions of		
Heart Disease	63	Nervous System	44	
Other Circulatory		Suicide	...	7
Disease	9	Motor Vehicle		
Pneumonia	18	Accidents	...	1
Bronchitis	11	All other accidents	...	9

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(1) Public Health Officers:—

- Medical Officer of Health:
E. Croft Watts, M.D., C.M., F.R.C.S.E., D.P.H.
- Senior Sanitary Inspector:
N. Raw, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
- Additional Sanitary Inspector:
J. G. Jenkins, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(2) **General Health Service:—**

- (a) **Laboratory Facilities.**—Examinations made at the Hampshire County Laboratories, and Public Health Laboratory.
- (b) **Ambulance Facilities.**—Provided by the Hampshire County Council as the Local Health Authority. Ambulances stationed at Lymington and New Milton. Infectious cases—ambulance headquarters at Lymington.
- (c) **Child Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics** are provided by the County Authority and are administered by the Health Department of that Authority. In this Borough the following are the facilities provided:—
Ante-Natal Clinic: Hillcroft, New Street, Lymington.

Child Welfare Centres:

Hillcroft, New Street, Lymington	Every Friday
Women's Institute Hall, Hordle	3rd Wednesday
Church Hall, Milford-on-Sea	4th Thursday
Church Hall, New Milton	2nd & 4th Wednesday
Church Hall, Ashley, New Milton	3rd Monday
Women's Institute, Pennington	2nd & 4th Tuesday

- (d) **Protective Treatment against Diphtheria.**—All children can receive free protective treatment by their own doctor; at Child Welfare Centres; or by the Medical Officer of Health at the Council Offices, New Milton. Treatment at the Schools is also given by the Council's Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

This part of the report deals chiefly with the sanitary inspection of the area and includes the report and observations of Mr. Raw, the Council's Senior Sanitary Inspector, who again wishes to express his thanks to his colleagues in the Health Department for their help and co-operation during the year.

Water Supply:—

Lymington Town is supplied by the Corporation owned works at Ampress. The rest of the Borough obtains its supply from the West Hampshire Water Company. By far the greater part of the area has mains water available, and the supplies throughout the district have been adequate and satisfactory in quality.

Out of a total of 7,769 occupied dwellinghouses 7,654 are provided with water from the main, and 15 properties remain on Well supplies; of these, 10 houses have not the water mains reasonably available.

It is estimated that a population of 22,510 is served by mains water.

LYMINGTON TOWN'S SUPPLY

The output from the Ampress Water Works was 116,000,000 gallons, an increase of nearly 18,000,000 gallons over 1952. No accommodation water is now taken from the West Hampshire Water Company's mains, the supply from the Ampress Works being adequate for the needs of the Town. Water, surplus to our own requirements, is used to augment the Company's Water in the adjacent area, approximately 1,000,000 gallons had been supplied at the end of December, 1953.

The mains have been extended a total of 513 yards at various points, chiefly 3 inch pipes at Hollywood Lane, Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Southampton Road, North Close and Ridgeway Lane.

Excluding new services to Council houses a total of 31 tappings were made to new properties or replacements to existing properties.

The Southampton Road Water Tower was cleansed and refilled during the year.

Five samples of this supply were taken, all for bacteriological examination, and the results were satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLIES

New Milton, Milford-on-Sea, Pennington and Hordle

During the year the West Hampshire Water Company has laid 7,823 yards of new mains. During the same period 253 new tappings have been carried out. The mains laid consist of:—

8" diameter	...	4,161 yards
6" diameter	...	300 yards
4" diameter	...	610 yards
3" diameter	...	1,705 yards
2" diameter	...	117 yards
1½" diameter	...	543 yards
1¼" diameter	...	387 yards

Regarding houses on Well supplies, 6 were connected to the mains during the year.

Ten samples of Well water were taken in respect of Wells supplying 6 properties. In the case of two of the properties the Well water was satisfactory, but in the case of the remaining 4 the sampling of the Well supplies indicated liability to pollution. In one case the use of this Well was discontinued and in the case of the other 3 cleansing of the Wells effected an improvement, but nevertheless the supplies are considered suspicious. The mains were not available in these cases and negotiations were started with a view to the mains being extended.

Drainage and Sewerage:—

Following action by the Health Department a further 10 houses were connected to the main sewer, 8 by informal action and 2 after the service of Statutory Notices. There still remain 60 properties within 100 feet of the main sewer not connected thereto, but of these 38 have satisfactory cesspool, or septic tank, drainage systems.

The drainage trouble in High Street, Milford-on-Sea, mentioned in last year's report remains the same. Negotiations continued with the owners concerned and most were willing to contribute to the cost of the works necessary to provide main drainage facilities. However, the minority were reluctant to do so and pollution of the Danestream continues.

ANALYSIS OF SEWER CONNECTIONS

District	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	Total
New Milton ...	17	9	12	25	98	161
Milford-on-Sea ...	12	4	2	5	8	31
Everton and Hordle ...	18	14	8	7	14	61
Pennington ...	14	17	8	4	12	55
Lymington ...	5	1	8	3	7	24
Total connections ...	66	45	38	44	139	332

In addition to the above figures 42 new Council houses were connected to the main sewer.

Total connections to new sewers (excluding Council houses).

Everton and Hordle	...	252	700
New Milton	...	96	
Pennington	...	223	
Milford-on-Sea	...	129	

Defects to drainage systems were found in 41 instances and 37 of these were remedied during the year.

Work to relieve the sewerage system in Old Milton still remains to be done, but negotiations are proceeding with the responsible Ministerial Department. Again I wish to emphasise the urgency of this matter on Public Health grounds.

Public Cleansing:—

Refuse collection and disposal is under the supervision of the Borough Engineer. In the built-up parts of the district there is a weekly collection of household refuse and in the main shopping area two collections weekly. The outlying rural parts have their refuse collected once a fortnight.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at a central site in the Hordle district.

During the summer the nearby residents were seriously troubled by a plague of flies and crickets in their houses. Steps were taken by the Borough Engineer's Department to deal with this nuisance so far as the refuse site was concerned, and in addition the householders were supplied with insecticide. I think some of the difficulties which arise on the refuse site are due to the bulky and sometimes wet nature of the refuse which is collected, with a consequent difficulty in packing and covering. It does seem that a good deal of this type of refuse could be quite easily disposed of by the householders thus materially assisting in the final disposal of what should be normal dry household refuse.

Rivers and Streams:—

A series of samples of water from the Danestream have been taken with a view to ascertaining sources of pollution. A total of 20 samples were taken at various points in the course of the stream and it is quite evident that there is pollution chiefly from house drainage. Investigations are still proceeding and improvements to domestic drainage schemes are being requested.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA
Inspections made during 1953.

DESCRIPTION	Inspec-tions	Action reqd.	Reme-died	In-formal	Statu-sitory
Milk and Dairies	137	6	6	—	—
Dwellinghouses:					
(Housing Act)	222	29	10	15	—
(Public Health Act)	269	22	19	24	1
Council House Applications ...	180	—	—	—	—
Drainage Visits and Tests ...	379	41	37	15	2
Water Supplies	46	3	3	—	—
Camp Sites and Moveable Dwellings ...	291	3	3	1	—
Schools	11	1	1	1	—
Factories Act	178	17	11	9	—
Business Premises	6	1	1	—	—
Food & Drugs Act	358	52	41	15	—
Food Inspections	123	—	—	—	—
Shops Act	14	1	1	—	—
Slaughterhouses/Knackers Yards	12	1	1	—	—
Refuse Sites	34	2	2	1	—
Piggeries	10	2	2	—	—
Dustbins	41	7	6	—	—
Complaints and Nuisances ...	89	31	28	—	—
Infectious and Notifiable Diseases	110	—	—	—	—
Disinfections	32	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria Immunisation	42	—	—	—	—
Sea Water Baths	8	—	—	—	—
House Pests	21	9	9	—	—
Watercourses	14	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	53	—	—	—	—
Total	2680	228	181	81	3
Rats & Mice ...	2436	492	478x	—	—
Petroleum Regulations ...	31	—	—	—	—
Grand Total ...	5147	720	659	81	3

x indicates treatment given.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

There are 156 registered factory premises in the district and 178 inspections were made during the year. Details of defects and results are as follows:—

Premises	No. on Register	Inspection	DEFECTS
		Found	Remedied
Non-power Factories ...	45	33 {	17
Power Factories ...	111	145 {	11

Analysis of Defects

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	4	3
Sanitary Conveniences		
unsuitable or defective ...	10	6
Smoke Nuisance	1	1
Fumes (Spraying Plant) ...	1	1
Drainage	1	0
Total ...	17	11

Types of Factories Registered.

Builders and Ancillary Works	...	31
Bakehouses	...	13
Garages	...	26
Laundries	...	4
Dairies	...	6
Engineering	...	6
Boat Builders	...	6
Boot Repairers	...	8
Tailors	...	5
Printing Works	...	4
Radio, Cycle and Electrical	...	15
Upholstery	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	27

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES

59 complaints were received during the year and action was required in only 31 cases. The nature of the defects and result of action taken are as follows:—

Nature of Defect	Found	Remedied
Housing defects	5	4
Defective Sanitary Fittings	1	1
Drainage defects	11	9
Food	2	2
Fumes	3	3
Insanitary deposits	2	2
Camping	2	2
Miscellaneous	5	5
Total ...	31	28

MILK, DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

There are 7 registered dairies and 12 registered distributors of milk within the Borough. Supervision of the milk supply has been maintained throughout the year. Generally the dairy premises have been kept in a satisfactory condition. A total of 137 inspections were made during the year.

There are five licensed pasteurising establishments, four treating the milk under the Holder process (milk retained at a temperature between 145°F and 150°F for at least 30 minutes), and the other by the H.T.S.T. method (milk retained at a temperature of not less than 161°F for at least 15 seconds). By delegated powers from the County, these plants are licensed by this Council and are kept under observation by officers of the Health Department.

The main defects found at these premises have been the continual breakdown of recording thermometers, the inaccurate readings of indicating thermometers and the too sparing use of detergents. A slight error in the thermometers often leads to under pasteurisation and it seems that dairymen are reluctant to pasteurise slightly above the minimum temperature for fear of affecting the cream line. Another difficulty has been the delay in having the inaccurate indicating thermometers etc., repaired, there does seem to be quite a delay at the works in some cases in having these essential parts of the pasteurising equipment repaired and returned to the dairyman, six or eight weeks seems to be not uncommon.

Samples of pasteurised milk have been taken regularly throughout the year and also specimen samples of the washed bottles to test the efficiency of the washing arrangements. Other samples have been taken following complaints of souring. The bottle samples are sent in batches of five and the mean bacterial count is taken, a count of under 600 is considered satisfactory, over 600 but less than 2,000 as fairly satisfactory and a count of over 2,000 is considered unsatisfactory.

The following are the details of sampling and other matters at the dairies where pasteurising is done.

DAIRY A.—12 samples of pasteurised milk were taken and all passed the phosphatase and methylene blue tests. The results of samples to test the efficiency of bottle washing are as follows:—

Test 1	Count per bottle	3650	— unsatisfactory.
” 2	” ” ”	2	— excellent.
” 3	” ” ”	360	— satisfactory.
” 4	” ” ”	1	— excellent.

Following the unsatisfactory report on the first sample the dairyman was advised to use more of the approved oxidising agent in the washing water. This seems to have had the desired effect.

DAIRY B.—14 samples of the pasteurised milk taken, all passed the phosphatase and methylene blue tests. The bottle sample results were as follows:—

Test 1	Count per bottle	40	— satisfactory.
” 2	” ” ”	90	— satisfactory.
” 3	” ” ”	2500	— unsatisfactory.
” 4	” ” ”	24	— satisfactory.

The cause of the failure of sample No. 3 was found to be due to lack of proper knowledge by the dairyman on the use of the oxidising agent used, and following increased dosage and more frequent changing of the detergent as advised, the desired result was obtained.

DAIRY C.—17 samples of pasteurised milk taken, and three of these failed the test, two failed the phosphatase test showing that the milk had not been properly pasteurised, the third sample was from accommodation milk treated outside the Borough and this sample failed the methylene blue test only, indicating that the milk was souring prior to heat treatment. The two milk samples which failed the phosphatase test were both taken in March and on investigation it was found the recording charts showed that the milk had been under pasteurised and the indicating thermometers showed errors of up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ °F. The dairyman was warned of the seriousness of this matter and subsequent samples were satisfactory. This does show the reluctance of dairymen to pasteurise at a safe margin over the minimum temperature for fear of losing the milk cream line.

This dairyman had complaints in May that the milk supplied by him was souring. It was decided to carry out tests on the raw milk as delivered to him from the farms as the processing at the dairy was evidently satisfactory. Samples were taken from the churns of 12 farms and 7 of these samples failed the methylene blue test. A further 9 samples were taken from these farms and 3 again failed the test. Another 8 samples were taken and on this occasion four failed the test.

The result of this sampling was forwarded to the Dairy Advisory Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and no further complaints were received.

DAIRY D.—17 samples of pasteurised milk taken, 3 failed the phosphatase test. In all cases the failures were due to errors in the Thermometer readings which led to under pasteurising.

This dairyman had complaints of sour milk and samples of milk from the farms were sent for examination. 20 samples were taken of the milk from 10 farms, and 2 samples from different farms failed to satisfy the methylene blue test. The Dairy Advisory Service was again notified of these unsatisfactory results and no further trouble has evidently been experienced.

Three batches of milk bottles were examined to test the efficiency of the washing, with the following results:—

Test 1	Count per bottle	2230	— unsatisfactory.
" 2	" "	125	— satisfactory.
" 3	" "	800	fairly satisfactory.

Again more intelligent use of the oxidising agent used was the answer to the trouble.

DAIRY E.—14 samples of pasteurised milk taken and all passed the required tests. A batch of bottle samples taken gave the satisfactory result of a count of 358.

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES

Class of Milk	No. of samples tested	Appropriate Tests	No. of samples Passed	No. of samples Failed
Pasteurised	49	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	46	3
T.T. Pasteurised	25	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	23	2
Raw	56	Methylene Blue	40	16

MEAT, SLAUGHTERHOUSES, FOOD STORES, etc.

There are 3 small slaughterhouses used for occasional slaughtering and there is one licensed Knackers Yard in regular use. These premises are kept in reasonably good condition.

The butchers shops are supplied from the Poole area where the Government Slaughterhouse is situated. 123 visits were made for the purpose of examining meat and other foodstuffs and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption.

Beef	...	...	Bruising, abscess, etc.	134½ lbs.
Pork	...	...	Haemorrhage, abscess	29 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	Bone Taint	81¾ lbs.
Cheese	...	...	Moulds	5 lbs.
Sausages	...	...	Stale, Sour	370½ lbs.
Fish	...	...	Stale, etc.	357 lbs.
Offal	...	...	Cysts, decomposition	122¾ lbs.
Sausage Rusk	...	...	Sour	112 lbs.
Meat Loaf, etc.	...		Decomposition	9 lbs.
Milk Powder	...		Stale	56 lbs.
Coconut Cream	...		Rancid	210 lbs.
Ducks	...		Decomposition	34½ lbs.
Pies, Meat Puddings, etc.			Moulds	116

Chocolate Wafers	...	Tainted	...	...	184
Pastry	...	Tainted	...	...	2pkts.
Pumpernickel	...	Tainted	...	...	16pkts.
Sandwich Spread	...	Discoloured	...	63 jars	
Tins of Pickles	...	Blown, Leaking, etc.	...	3	
" " Nuts	...	" "	" "	24	
" " Soups	...	" "	" "	10	
" " Jams	...	" "	" "	10	
" " Fruit	...	" "	" "	422	
" " Meat	...	" "	" "	172	
" " Milk	...	" "	" "	119	
" " Fish	...	" "	" "	114	
" " Vegetables	...	" "	" "	236	
" " Cream	...	" "	" "	5	

Three samples of foodstuffs as follows were submitted for analysis:—

Tinned Red Plums.—These were submitted for analysis because of complaints that the fruit was unpalatable. The analyst's report stated that in his opinion the trouble was due to "fruit gumming" caused by the production of a gum-like substance in the fruit which swells up during the process of canning, cracks the fruit and exudes as a red gelatinous mass. Consignment condemned on the grounds that the fruit was distasteful.

Skim Milk Powder.—Analysed on complaints of souring. Milk Powder condemned as unfit for human consumption on the analyst's report that sour milk had been used for processing.

Sausage Rusk.—Complaint that rusk was sour, and confirmed on analyst's report.

Considerable time is spent in examining and writing out condemnation notes in respect of foodstuffs found to be unsound or unmarketable. Pre-war a good deal of this was dealt with within the trade, and I think this service should be reverted to. Nearly 500 certificates relating to unsound food were issued in 1953.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938

Food Premises — Ice Cream

There are 254 food premises in the Borough comprising:—

Restaurants, Hotels, Snack Bars, etc.	...	54
Fishmongers and Fish Fryers	...	15
Butchers	...	23
Greengrocers	...	28
Grocery and Provisions	...	77
Bakers	...	15
Sweet Shops	...	42

Number of premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream:—

Grocers	...	40
Cafe and Confectionery	...	29
Confectionery only	...	32
Ice Cream only	...	4
General Stores	...	7
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	3
	Total	115

Number of registered Dairies 7

Number of premises registered for manufacture of Ice Cream ... 1

Number of premises registered for the preparation of Preserved Foods:—

Fried Fish Shops ...	...	...	5
Grocers ...	...	...	2
Butchers ...	...	...	23
Bakers ...	...	...	2
Cooked Meat Shop	...	...	1
		Total ...	33

Inspection of premises registered under
the Food & Drugs Act ... 150

Inspection of premises registered under
the Milk & Dairies Regulations ... 137

Inspection of other Food Premises 208

A total of 52 defects were found involving 41 food premises. Generally speaking the food premises in the area are kept in a reasonably satisfactory condition and the occupiers do endeavour to comply with our requests.

Redecoration work has been carried out at 15 premises, proper hot water washing facilities have been provided in 7 instances, and other defects including insanitary deposits, drainage matters, and defective sanitary fittings, etc, have been dealt with in 19 other cases.

Regarding the bye-laws relating to the protection of food the position in the Borough is quite good.

So far as the wet fish shops are concerned all now have carried out necessary works to prevent contamination of the fish on display, of the two outstanding from 1952 one has completely enclosed the slab by casing over the top, and the other has installed a plate glass window covering the front, this latter being completed early in 1954.

There is still only one manufacturer of Ice Cream in the Borough, supplies to shops being obtained from this source and nine other manufacturers whose premises are outside the Borough. Out of the 115 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream only 85 of these actually trade in this commodity. There are 31 retailers in Lymington area, 34 in New Milton, 9 in Milford-on-Sea, and 11 others in the remainder of the Borough.

41 samples of Ice Cream were taken and the results were again extremely satisfactory. 31 samples were in Grade 1, and the remaining samples in Grade 2. The following table indicates the results of samples taken over the last five years, which appears to give some indication that the improvement in manufacture and handling is being maintained.

Year	No. of samples	1	2	3	4	Percentage Satisfactory
1949	45	16	9	9	11	55.5 %
1950	83	44	21	13	5	78.01 %
1951	47	41	2	2	2	91.5 %
1952	72	63	9	—	—	100 %
1953	41	31	10	—	—	100 %

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are 19 licensed camping sites in the Borough and in addition 39 licences were issued respecting individual caravans. The licensed camp sites allow for 1,217 moveable dwellings and it is estimated that during the summer season there is a population of nearly 4,000 occupying this type of dwelling. Two of the licensed camp sites were not used during 1953. Six camp sites are used during the summer only, the remainder having a proportion of the caravans in use all the year round. About 17% of the Moveable Dwellings in the Borough are used as permanent homes.

One application for a Camp Site licence was withdrawn and one application for a licence in respect of an individual caravan was refused, no appeal against this refusal was made.

During the year additional sanitary facilities were provided at one camp site to comply with the new conditions of licence, and work was commenced but not completed at three other sites. In the cases of four other sites where additional sanitary conveniences were required, work has not commenced. In one of these cases the proposals, when submitted to the Town Planning Authority, were not approved. Although improved sanitary arrangements have been required, there has been very little to complain about during the year from a health point of view. Camp Managers have endeavoured reasonably successfully, to maintain the sites in a clean and sanitary condition, and there have been improvements in the appearance and hygiene of these holiday places.

The limitations of the relevant provisions of the Public Health Act 1936 relating to camp sites have already been mentioned in previous reports, and until the weaknesses in the Act have been remedied difficulties in this holiday area such as unauthorised camping, are sure to arise.

So far as the inspection of camp sites is concerned, the Health Department is managing to keep the sites under reasonable supervision but anticipated future legislation on other Public Health matters might affect the position later. Further camp sites in the area would also tend to make proper inspection difficult.

HOUSING

A total of 671 visits were made during the year, including 180 investigations in reference to Council house applications. On the matter of re-housing, 36 families living in overcrowded conditions were allocated Council houses. There still remain very many cases of families sharing homes or living under unsatisfactory conditions, and either the housing programme of the Council will have to be increased or the demand met in some way by private enterprise. Investigations of applications for Council houses have revealed in very many cases conditions which should be alleviated.

During 1953 a further 42 houses were built by the Council and 143 completed under licence. The total number of houses owned by the Council is 1,095, and requisitioned properties 3 housing nine families.

491 inspections were made regarding house repairs and most defects were remedied by the owners on request. One house was closed under the Housing Act 1936 (Sec. II) the family of two being re-housed by the Council.

Difficulties, of course, still remain where owners are required to carry out repairs to properties let at pre-war rentals.

21 other visits were made regarding house pests and treatment was given in 9 cases.

RODENT CONTROL

The following table indicates the work carried out in the Borough under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	Business Industrial etc.	Total
1. No. of properties inspected during 1953 as a result of:—					
(a) notification or	-	287	2	31	320
(b) otherwise	8	398	24	127	557
2. No. of properties found to be infested by rats:					
Major ...	-	1	-	-	1
Minor ...	8	393	10	29	440
3. No. of properties found to be seriously infested by mice ...	-	34	-	17	51
4. No. of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	8	428	3	39	478
5. No. of "block" control schemes carried out ...	-	16	-	8	24

The poisons used are Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic, Red Squill, Antu and Warfarin. A total of 1,666 poison baits have been laid. It is estimated that 4,233 rats and 356 mice have been destroyed.

The preceding involved 2,436 visits by the Rodent Officer. The office was notified of infestation by rats or mice in 320 instances, these being chiefly in respect of dwelling houses where free treatment is given.

In addition to the above, the Rodent Officer has destroyed 21 wasp nests and 7 hornet nests; a small charge is made for this service.

It might again be mentioned that the Act places the responsibility of Rodent Control on the local sanitary authority. The duty includes the inspection of agricultural land, to take proper steps in regard to the Council's own property, including sewers, refuse sites, etc., and to ensure that owners and occupiers of property within the area comply with the Act. The Hampshire Agricultural Executive Committee has now ceased their operational work on farms which they have done most efficiently for some years, this will undoubtedly have some effect in this area which is largely agricultural. An increase in the inspection of farm properties seems necessary but there is little prospect of this being done with the present staff. As mentioned in the 1952 report the full purpose of the Act was not being carried out in the Borough even prior to this further development.

The formation during 1953 of a Committee comprising representatives from the districts of Bournemouth, Christchurch, New Forest, Ringwood and Lymington, has been very useful and the meetings so far have been very helpful and informative.

LYMINGTON SEA WATER BATHS

The Sea Water Baths are kept under observation and the water is regularly sampled. The baths are kept in a clean condition and improvements are carried out as finances permit. Special facilities for swimming are available with the County Education Authority and to private schools for the benefit of the children. Visiting organisations too are granted similar facilities. Several of the leading London clubs and County sides pay annual visits for Water Polo matches against the Lymington team.

The pool is emptied and filled at midnight tide from the river, every fortnight, and chlorination is carried out as required. I do suggest that an improved method of chlorination should be investigated.

Over 14,500 tickets were issued to bathers during the season and nearly 4,000 tickets to spectators. The Water Polo matches which take place most week-ends are a decided attraction, and for the fourth year in succession the boys' team retained the Junior County Championship. The Lymington Club also headed Division I of the Three Counties Water Polo Association.

POR T SANITARY REGULATIONS

Lymington River is controlled by the Lymington Harbour Commissioners on which Board the Lymington Borough Council is represented.

	Motor	Sailing
Coastwise vessels entering Port .	52	—
Vessels from Foreign parts ...	—	—

A position between Oxey Lake and Spit Buoy is the mooring station for suspected ships in the case of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and Typhus. Other infectious diseases are regarded as exempt from detention. No infectious cases were reported during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The diseases notified were:—	1952	1953
Measles	23	638
Whooping Cough ...	8	22
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	3
Poliomyelitis	1	4
Scarlet Fever	19	75
Pneumonia	6	13
Typhoid Fever	—	1
Para-Typhoid	1	—
Erysipelas	1	2
Dysentery	19	2
Food poisoning	—	3

There were two deaths among the 638 cases of Measles notified, the epidemic dying down in the latter half of the year; of the four cases of Poliomyelitis notified three were paralytic.

The Scarlet Fever cases were of a mild type.

15
TUBERCULOSIS

28 new cases of Tuberculosis in the Borough were notified during the year, 24 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary, an increase of 13 over 1952.

Excluding 4 cases transferred from other areas, 18 of the cases were Pulmonary and 6 non-Pulmonary.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

110 children under the age of 5 years and 49 between 5 and 15 years received the completed protective treatment during the year. A further 504 children received boosting doses, these were chiefly done at the Schools and I wish to express my thanks to the head teachers for their help and co-operation.

It is estimated that 75% of the children in the Borough under 15 years of age have received the protective treatment against Diphtheria, the percentage being about the same as in 1952.

CONCLUSION

Excluding the measles epidemic which recurs fairly regularly, and taking into consideration the low infant mortality figure, the health of the residents in the Borough has been satisfactory.

I much appreciate the help given to me by Mr. Raw and the other members of the Health Department, and the support received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, all of whom I wish to thank.

E. CROFT WATTS,
Medical Officer of Health.

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